

**MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE FARMLAND PRESERVATION
AUGUST 23, 2007
MEETING MINUTES**

Mrs. Butch called the Meeting to Order at 7:44 p.m

The Secretary read the Adequate Notice.

Roll Call : Present: Butch, Denardo, Morelli, Romano, Schloss. Late: Abilheira,.
Absent: Alves, Blanco, Mullarkey, Siedman and Wingerter.

Public Comment: the Public Portion was opened and 7:45 p.m. and seeing no public comment, closed at 7:45 p.m.

Approval of July Minutes: The minutes were discussed. Mr. Denardo made a Motion to approve and Ms. Morelli offered a Second: Roll Call Vote: Denardo, Morelli, Butch, Schloss, Romano voted yes to approve.

Correspondence:

Ms. Butch went over the correspondence received:
August 7, 2007, correspondence received from David Smith, State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres Program; P.O. Box 412, Trenton, NJ 08625 correspondence concerning the Buono Trail.

Ms. Butch advised that the Lance Wagner Trail is to be marked.

On Baird Road, Ken Gann, Supervisor of the Department of Public Works, is filling the holes to make the trail safer. She advised that he would fill the larger areas once his new grader arrives. She advised that Mr. Gann is making progress with what equipment he currently has.

Concerning the Lichtman Management Agreement , it is currently going through the State level of approval.

The Fall Newsletter was discussed. There should be a feature farm for the bulletin. Ms. Morelli is to check with the Homs to highlight their farm in the Fall bulletin.

Ms. Butch discussed the importance of the Garden State Trust and gave an update.

There is to be a "2008 Farmland Preservation Plan" Open Meeting at the September 27, 2007 regularly scheduled meeting of Open Space. Ms. Butch advised that the need a funding plan and the need to have someone financially savvy to oversee that plan. Ms. Butch would write a blurb regarding what the open public meeting would be about. It is to be placed in the newspaper and posted on the Web and on the Peg channel to get the word out to the public for input. The Secretary would advertise the meeting in the official newspaper. She

advised that in order to comply with the State's requirements we must hold the public open meeting regardless of how many from the public attend.

Ms. Butch went over the number of meeting must be held with the last one taking place December 13, 2007. We can have the meeting when we get the State's comments back. Mrs. Morelli to seek the assistance of Steve Morelli to tape the first three meetings in September, October and November.

Ms. Butch advised that the County Farm Leases were awarded. Ms. Butch asked the County that we be placed on their notification list. She advised that the County did not notify use. She explained that some farmers received letters while other farmers in our town did not receive the notice. It was put in the paper. There was selective notification. Two farmers from our town were notified that we know of. She stated that no one with a Clarksburg address was notified. The Council suggested that along with the Ag Council should pen a letter regarding this situation. The leases awarded are for three-year leases. Many farmers in the towns now find themselves without land to farm.

Millstone Day was discussed. The Open Space Fund Raiser is Millstone Day. Ms. Siedman has sent out letters advising the public that we need donations and volunteers.

The Council discussed the Insurance Release form for the Bull ride. The Township will be on the insurance rider and Mr. Mullarkey has provided the releases for the participants to sign.

Mr. Abilheira arrives at 8:10 p.m. Ms. Butch advises Mr. Abilheira of the need for some financial advisor regarding the 2008 Farmland Preservation Plan.. Mr. Abilheira will be at the September meeting.

The council discussed that they lost the option to provide food since other groups are now selling food that originally were not going to. The Council discussed that it would not be profitable for our b-b-q man to set up.

New Equine Rules. The New Jersey Register is providing information to all members via e-mail. Tony Romano will keep the group apprised.

Stewardship – The Deitwiler Green Acres Agreement purchased from Buono who originally preserved it. The Township received a letter from the State, the Township feels the Deitwilers should be made responsible for cleaning up the property per the State.

Rosi - Simon met with Ms. Butch and they went through the properties, looked up the deeds to see who owns them and discovered two mistakes. Simon has done the work and sent the amendments to the State.

One mistake was the in correct citing of the block and lot. The other was a Synagogue was placed on the Rosi inadvertently in the 1990s. That must come off and Attorney Kaufman is taking care of that.

Ag Board Update - Tony Romano. He advised that the Ag Council met on August 6, 2007 to discuss the open meetings for the farmers in the town. Bob Bruch of the State Ag Department, will be the speaker at the October 29, 2007 seminar. On November 8, 2007 is the Right-to-Farm Seminar and on December 13, 2007 is the Farmland Conservation Plan.

Ms. Butch explained to the Board that at the August Ag Meeting, Mrs. Mattei was guest visitor. Tony Romano explained her concerns. The Ag Council has different concerns then the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Council. He explained the road divides the acreage. One is plowed and pastured. From an agricultural point of view, it does not change what the land can be used for. If the property was sold it will still be a farm. It does not add a residential opportunity. Monmouth County passed a resolution approving it and sent their recommendation to the State. Ms. Butch advised that it was never explained to Mrs. Mattei that the land was non-severable.

Mr. Romano stated that the Millstone Township Ag council put an article in the paper regarding driver awareness of farmers and farm equipment. He explained the information contained in the article. The article was published in the newspaper in July 2007.

Planning Board/Board of Adjustment Applications - The Riordan application is complete and the subdivision map reflects the trail is 15 feet and located next to an existing 15-foot trail, which gives the towns 30 feet.

Lee Major Subdivision - working on the 6-acre exception.

The Kunzler/Monmouth County application is scheduled to be heard by the Planning Board in September.

At 8:38 p.m., Mr. Romano made a Motion to go into Executive Session and Mr. Denardo offered a Second: Romano, Denardo, Butch, Schloss, Abilheira and Morelli vote yes to leave the regular session and go into executive session to discuss land preservation.

At 9: 30 p.m., the Council returned to the regular session and seeing no further business, by Motion of Mr. Abilheira and a Second offered by Ms. Morelli and by unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela D'Andrea
Acting Secretary